Postal Regulatory Commission
Submitted 5/18/2016 4:26:03 PM
Filing ID: 95921
Accepted 5/18/2016

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268–0001

INQUIRY CONCERNING SERVICE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT DATA	**Docket No. PI2016-1**

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 3 OF CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2

The United States Postal Service hereby files its responses to Chairman's Information Request No. 2, which is dated May 13, 2016. The questions are stated verbatim and are followed by the responses.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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May 18, 2016

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2

1. The Postal Service states that "approximately 70 percent of the estimated volume of Presort First-Class Mail sampled for [Origin Destination Information System-Revenue, Pieces, and Weight (ODIS-RPW)] in FY 2015 was missing the origin ZIP Code, making it impossible to assign a service standard for this portion of the volume." Responses to CHIR No. 1, question 2.a.

a. What proportion of total Presorted First-Class Mail volume does this figure (*i.e.,* 70 percent) represent?

b. What proportion of total Presorted First-Class Mail volume was sampled by ODIS-RPW in FY 2015?

c. Is Presorted First-Class Mail also measured by Bulk RPW?

d. Please explain the sampling process for ODIS-RPW volume estimates.

RESPONSE

a. Of the total estimated FY 2015 First-Class Presort volume of 40.2 billion pieces from ODIS-RPW, seventy percent (28.14 billion) did not have an origin ZIP Code.

b. All Presort First-Class Mail was a potential candidate for ODIS-RPW sampling upon its exit from the mailstream in FY 2015. However, a service standard could not be assigned to the 70 percent of such mail that did not bear an origin ZIP Code.

c. Yes.

d. ODIS-RPW is a probability statistical sampling system of all mail exiting the Postal Service. The sampling frame is defined by 'Mail Exit Points' (MEPs), or mail streams in destination post offices or plants where mail exits the Postal System. All mail exiting the postal system is defined in MEPs. MEPs are stratified based on average daily volumes within approximately one-hundred and ninety geographic sample areas roughly corresponding to processing plants. Within each sample area and

stratum, MEP-days are randomly selected. ODIS-RPW data collectors travel to the MEP locations on the selected MEP-day and sample mail as it arrives at the postal facility. Using structured sampling procedures, mail is first sampled by container and then by mailpiece within sampled container. Data collectors record characteristics of selected maipieces on specialized computer laptop software. These data are uploaded and processed for computational purposes. ODIS-RPW statistical estimates are derived based on in the inverse of the sampling fractions. ODIS-RPW has been discussed in many recent filings before the Postal Regulatory Commission (See Proposal One in RM2015-9, Proposal 6 in RM2015-5, and Proposal 3 in RM2011-11). ODIS-RPW was last fully documented in Docket RM2006-1, Library References USPS-LR-L-16 and USPS-LR-L-17.

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2

2. The Postal Service states that the challenge of disaggregating Full-Service Intelligent Mail barcode (IMb) measured mail volumes at the class, product, and service standard levels is "the small volume mailings for which the documentation requirements do not support product categorization for Standard Mail and Periodicals…." *Id.* question 2.c. Is the Postal Service able to estimate the proportion of small-volume mailings of all mail measured by Full-Service IMb? If so, please provide this proportion.

RESPONSE

The small-volume mailings which did not have the information necessary to categorize pieces by product represented 0.2 percent of total measured Standard Mail in FY 2015 and 0.04 percent of total measured Periodicals in FY 2015.

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2

3. The following question concerns Responses to CHIR No. 1, question 5. Please confirm that the Product Tracking System uses a census approach to service performance measurement (versus sampling).

RESPONSE

Confirmed.

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2

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RESPONSE to QUESTION 1 (continued)

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RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2

3. The following question concerns Responses to CHIR No. 1, question 5. Please confirm that the Product Tracking System uses a census approach to service performance measurement (versus sampling).

RESPONSE

Confirmed.